

Application No.: 10/074,031
Reply to Office Action of September 12, 2003
Response dated November 20, 2003
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Attorney Docket No. 0505-0956P
Group: 3661

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-18 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his election of species requirement in view of the remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has set forth an election of species requirement with regard to the present application. The grouping of the claims is set forth as follows:

Group I. Figures 1 and 2

Claims readable on this Species: 1

II. Figures 3-5

Claims readable on this Species: 1-18

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's election of species requirement, Applicant has elected the species of Group II for initial examination. Applicant hereby elects claims 1-18 for initial examination. As set forth in the Examiner's Office Action, it is respectfully

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submitted that claims 1 and 15 are generic to the two species of the present application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to act on the elected claims.

The provisions of 37 CFR 1.146 state that a reasonable number of species are permitted in a single application. The present application contains nine species. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's election of species requirement is improper in view of the fact that generic claim 1, is allowable and thus a reasonable number of species are set forth in the present application.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's election of species requirement, claims 1-18 have been initially elected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his election of species requirement and act on all of the claims in the present application. In view of the fact that all of the claims of the present application are directed to Species II, it is not necessary to address the issue of filing a divisional application directed to non-elected claims at this time.

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

The Examiner has recognized the Applicant's claim for foreign priority. In view of the fact that the Applicant's claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no further action is necessary.

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DRAWINGS

The Official Draftsperson has not approved the Formal Drawings submitted by the Applicants. It is respectfully submitted that the drawings comply with the requirements of the USPTO. If the Official Draftsperson has any objections to the Formal Drawings he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned as soon as possible so that appropriate action may be taken. No further action is believed to be necessary at this time unless the undersigned receives a notice from the Official Draftsperson.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 1, 2002. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 should be sent to the undersigned at the earliest convenience of the Examiner.

PETITION FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant respectfully petitions for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$420.00 is attached hereto.

Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.

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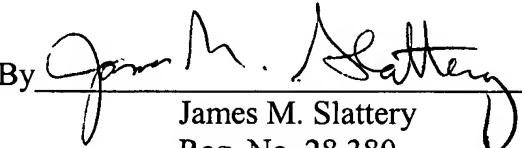
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Please charge any fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to

Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Respectfully submitted,

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